

Call for Participation
Autumn School of the “Vinifera/Newclim” Research Network
October 6 – October 10, 2025 | Tbilisi and Telavi, Georgia

We are pleased to invite applications for the Autumn School of the **“Vinifera/Newclim”** research network. The school will take place in Tbilisi and Telavi, Georgia, from **October 6 to October 10, 2025**, with financial support of the French-Georgian University and as part of the international programs of European consortium EMaVE and Newclim.

About the EMaVE consortium:



The EMaVE consortium is a European partnership of universities offering the Vinifera EuroMaster, a joint master's degree in viticulture and enology. The master Vine and Wine implemented by GTU (Georgian Technical University) is offering as Double Diploma by the consortium. It brings together leading institutions from France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, and Spain. The program combines scientific excellence with practical experience and a strong international dimension. EMaVE promotes innovation, sustainability, and mobility in wine education and research. <https://www.vinifera-euromaster.eu/>

About Newclim project:



The Erasmus+ NewClim project is a European cooperation initiative focused on climate change education. It aims to support higher education institutions in integrating climate-related challenges into curricula and governance. The project promotes interdisciplinary approaches, stakeholder engagement, and institutional transformation. NewClim fosters innovation, sustainability, and resilience in European universities. <https://newclim.eu/>

2025 Autumn School Theme:

Title: *Wine, Climate, and Change: Building Resilience in Georgian Viticulture*

Course Theme:

This autumn course explores the intersection of climate change and sustainable viticulture in the Georgian context, a cradle of winemaking. Combining scientific insights from the Vinifera EuroMaster (EMaVE) and the transformative approach of NewClim, the course empowers students to address climate challenges through innovation, tradition, and local engagement. Field visits and collaborative projects will highlight adaptation strategies and heritage preservation in Georgian wine regions.

Highlights of the Program:

- **Keynote lectures and panel discussions** with members of EMaVE and Newclim groups, Anne Pellegrino (IA Montpellier), David Maghradze (GTU), Patrice Lallemand (IA Montpellier), Charles Romieu (INRAe), Pascal Wegmann (Campus Neustadt), Rolandi Burdiashvili (Schuchmann and TeSaU), Manuchar Meskhidze (GWS and TeSaU)...
- **Three thematic fieldwork laboratories:**
 - Viticulture in continental conditions and adaptation to climate change
 - Specific wine-making and tasting (Qvevri wines)
 - Vine selection and Breeding
- **Writing workshops** with academic mentoring using the CBL methodology (Challenge Based Learning).
- **Cultural program** including local site visits.

Thematic Focus

Georgia, recognized as the cradle of *Vitis vinifera* cultivation, boasts over 8,000 years of winemaking tradition and a rich diversity of indigenous grape varieties. This unique viticultural heritage is now facing increasing pressure from climate change, with rising temperatures and more frequent droughts threatening long-established practices. The country's mountainous geography, particularly the influence of the Greater Caucasus range, creates highly diverse microclimates—offering both challenges and opportunities for adaptation. Many local grape varieties, still unknown outside Georgia, may hold key traits for climate resilience and are already the subject of genetic research in collaboration with teams from Montpellier.

In parallel, the NewClim project has identified major climate-related challenges for viticulture in France, Germany, Sweden, and Chile. Applying NewClim's Challenge-Based Learning (CBL) methodology in the Georgian context appears especially valuable, as it can help surface new, locally grounded problematics. These insights could enrich and expand the shared knowledge base and resource platform developed by the NewClim consortium, while fostering international collaboration and innovation in climate-resilient viticulture.

Eligibility & Financial Support

The Autumn School is open to applications from students based in Georgia, the broader Caucasus region, and across Europe at **Bachelor and Master level** in Agronomy/Agricultural Sciences, Plant Sciences & technologies, Food Sciences & technologies... and in closely related fields

There is no tuition fee.

Financial support is available and may include full or partial travel grants and free accommodation (single or shared double rooms). All participants will receive an official certificate upon completion.

Application Process

Please submit the following documents (in English) to school.vitivini@proton.me by **August 15, 2025**:

1. **Curriculum Vitae**
2. **A short abstract (max. 500 words)** describing your current studies

3. **A motivation letter** (max. 800 words)

Incomplete applications will not be considered. Successful applicants will be notified by **the end of August 2025**.

Organizing committee

Eva Bertrand (French-Georgian University, Georgia)

Patrice Lallemand (Institut Agro Montpellier)

David Maghradze (Georgian Technical University)

Tamar Aslanishvili (Telavi State University)

